SAINT PHILOMENA
"The Wonder Worker of Our Age"

While exploring the Catacombs, in the year 1802, a remarkable slab attracted the attention of the explorers. It read "Philomena Pax Tecum." (Philomena, peace be to thee.) An anchor, three arrows and a palm branch entwined this inscription.

The anchor signified that the martyr was firmly reposed in Heaven; the three arrows seemed to tell the story of her heroic death; while the palm branch was a symbol of her peace with God. These were inscribed on her tomb by other contemporary devout Christians. Thus was discovered the tomb of Saint Philomena.

As the grave was formally opened, it was disclosed that the Saint had been martyred in her age of thirteen to fifteen years. The exact year of her death has not been determined. It is thought that she lived about the latter part of the first century.

On June 8, 1805, the relics of Saint Philomena were transferred from the catacombs to the Church of Mugnano, in the diocese of Nola, near Naples, Italy. There her relics were enshrined under one of the altars. From this date, starts the glorious history of miracles accomplished through her intercession. So numerous and so striking were the miracles that our Saint became known as the "Wonder Worker of the 19th Century." In consequence of the many favors in answer to prayer before the relics of Saint Philomena, devotion to her spread very rapidly. After an investigation, Pope Gregory 16th formally canonized the girl saint and appointed a special feast to be celebrated in her honor. (In America, this feast is celebrated on August 11th.)

To Saint John Baptist Mary Vianney (1786-1859), popularly known as "The Cure of Ars," must be ascribed, in great measure, the spread of the devotion to Saint Philomena. The Cure of Ars speaks of her as his "Heavenly Princess." He attributed to her every success; prayers granted; exceptional favors and many conversions. She has been acclaimed by many devout Christians as the "Little Wonder Worker," especially to those in distress.

From the silence and darkness of the Catacombs, came the testimony of Saint Philomena. The life of this child-martyr was revealed only by her death; disclosed from a tomb untouched for seventeen hundred years.

To Saint Philomena,

Do the People of This Parish Rededicate Their Church—

And In Her Honor, Shall It Remain the

"Little House of God," at Stonelick.

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